



Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: April 15th, 2020
Time: 7:15PM
Location: Via Zoom conference
Attendees: *Executive committee:* Christopher Tonkin (chair), Doug Greenfield, Jack Johnson, Adam MacNeill, Doug Mayo-Wells, Scott Smith
Town of Arlington: Daniel Amstutz

David Creedon, Rod Holland, Brian Ristuccia

1. Introduction

Executive committee roll call:

Doug Greenfield, present
Jack Johnson, present
Scott Smith, present
Adam MacNeill, present
Doug Mayo-Wells, present

From the Town of Arlington:
Daniel Amstutz, present

Opening a public meeting of Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee, being conducted remotely and consistent with Governor Baker's executive order of March 12th, 2020, due to the current state of emergency in the Commonwealth, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.

In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 virus it has been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings as such. The Governor's order suspends the requirement from Open Meeting Law to hold all meetings in a publicly accessible physical location. All members of a public body may participate in a meeting entirely remotely as long as reasonable public access is afforded so the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting. Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation as such. Public participation is required by law. This meeting will feature public comment. This meeting of ABAC is conducted via Zoom. Doug Mayo-Wells is taking minutes and the meeting is recorded to

enable verification of the minutes. People will be able to see and hear you, take care to not inadvertently share your screen.

Draft meeting notes from March 7th Strategy Session are posted on calendar event for this meeting <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/home/showdocument?id=50925>

2. Meeting minutes approval

Not ready for review, deferring to next month

3. Social distancing

Will be hard

Observations:

- Real change in behavior, can see that people are trying vs. 2 wks go
- Big variations in use by time-of-day, weather
- Many social distancing signs observed in Lexington. 6 or 7 signs along bikeway in Arlington.
- People who live together are not distancing
- Mask wearing suppresses some social signalling - may experience aggression
- Someone will complain no matter what!

Practical suggestions:

- More signs.
 - Be encouraging
 - Stay "on-message," e.g., align with Burma Shave-style signs
 - 6 ft separation signs on new Tri Community Greenway (Winchester, Woburn and Winchester) - might be able to leverage these designs
 - Possible to paint 6 ft separation directly on bikeway?
 - Or signs placed to indicate 6ft
- Encourage off-peak use; other routes where practical (especially for biking)
 - Less vehicle traffic (although some reports that it moves faster)
 - Pedestrian light cycles do some traffic calming
 - Roads that are safe for riding could benefit from sharrows (not just Mass ave)
 - Maybe inventory sharrows?
 - Or temporary improvements to routes parallel to Mass Ave/Bikeway to reduce demand on bikeway?
 - Empty corporate parking lots may be good places for socially distant exercise
 - May be liability/trespass concerns
 - (If new sharrows are added as part of COVID response, don't need to remove when Town reopens)
- Possible to take a lane from Mass ave to provide pedestrians more space?
- Emphasize ride/walk single file?

- Is mentioned on Town web page, but not pushed in focused way
- On some of the signs (but small, hard to read).

Town operating at approx 40% due to work-from-home guidance, so resources to make public works changes are limited. "Burma shave" signs more feasible than sharrows; still need to go through Town Manager's office and pandemic response team.

Town is researching options for changing street capacity, messaging. Brookline has been implementing measures on Beacon, Longwood, other communities as well - implementing public health measures that apply tactical urbanism.

ABAC's recommendations to town should be based on objective measurement as possible (not anecdotal reports)

Reminder that it is always necessary to change lanes to overtake on the bikeway, avoid drafting
Public letter from MA Vision Zero Coalition <https://www.visionzerocoalition.org/> (dated April 13) recommends shared street signage (encourage walking in streets; sidewalks are not wide enough to pass)

Could formally count Mass Ave/Bikeway traffic proportion from Swan Place; anecdotal observations of traffic from 2:1 to 12:1 in favor of bikeway

ABAC message to cover:

- Remain 6ft apart (and no drafting)
- Avoid organized walks/rides
- Ride/walk single file
- Pass only when safe
- Reminder that use of face coverings is recommended (even when biking)
- Consider off-peak hours or areas other than the bikeway for exercise
- Motorists should expect more bikes/pedestrians in roadway
- Reinforce town speed limit

Doug Mayo-Wells volunteers to draft timely one-page memo to send to Town.

Christopher Tonkin moves that Doug Mayo-Wells draft a memo to Town on bicycle social distancing

Adam MacNeill: seconds the motion

Christopher Tonkin takes a roll call vote:

Doug Mayo-Wells: Yes

Adam MacNeill: Yes

Scott Smith: Yes

Doug Greenfield: Yes
Jack Johnson: Yes
Christopher Tonkin: Yes

SO VOTED: (6-0)

4. Lane changes

In conceptual form, could pilot on 4-lane section of Mass Ave from Town Hall to Whole Foods.
If successful could expand to Broadway, Park, etc.
(Harder to change state numbered routes; more approvals needed)

Extra space could be used for either walking or biking, so ABAC support could be helpful.

Opportunity to promote riding in Arlington streets, so positive, energetic aspect.

EALS has also submitted a letter of support.

Adam MacNeill volunteers to draft a letter of support, and moves for vote.

Christopher Tonkins seconds the motion

Christopher Tonkin takes a roll call vote:

Doug Mayo-Wells: Yes

Adam MacNeill: Yes

Scott Smith: Yes

Doug Greenfield: Yes

Jack Johnson: Yes

Christopher Tonkin: Yes

SO VOTED: (6-0)

5. COBWEB report

No officer present for this meeting

6. TAC report

TAC did not meet in March or April

7. Arlington High School

Breaking ground toward the end of month - critical to keep on schedule

8. Sustainable transportation committee

Chris, Scott, Adam had meeting with Nelson\Nygaard

Productive meeting, consultants demonstrated understanding of situations
Same firm that did Arlington Center parking meter work, good job there
Discussion of east/west split in town, snow, ice, flooding on bike path, connections to other towns, etc.
Did not discuss capacity of bikeway

Continuing with virtual focus groups
Survey to go out end of month - including ebike question

April 6th STC meeting
Most of meeting spent on current conditions survey, good visualizations of town
Engagement strategy and changes required by pandemic

9. Bike Friendly Community

Daniel has reviewed application sections (engineering, enforcement, education, encouragement, evaluation), incorporating data from 2016 application where possible. Need to verify that the Town is still doing things, has done things. One person/section would be a helpful division of labor. (Daniel knows least about Education section, e.g., what percent of students are getting bike information in curriculum - easier to answer school-by-school than at a Town level.)
Brian has list of some Safe Routes to School coordinators.
Scott can check with TAC.

Daniel will send sections to Christopher, Christopher will delegate.

10. CPA funds

Will invite Charlie McCabe (CPA committee contact) to next meeting.
Request for bikeway planning study had to be clarified / made more tangible for committee, reduced cost/scope to be more engineering heavy. Focused on bikeway safety, engineering firm to make assessments/recommendations e.g., for lighting, intersection treatments (Linwood, Water St.), widening bike path, etc.
Proposal was approved by CPA committee and select board to go to town meeting for final approval.
However, Town Meeting (currently planned for end of June) will highly likely only cover budgetary items; any warrant articles not directly for budget (zoning etc.) will not be taken up because there are only 2 or 3 days before the new fiscal year starts in July. (These articles may be taken up at a special Town Meeting to be scheduled at some other time, e.g., in the fall).

Because CPA is a budget item it should be approved in June, could start work in summer.

11. Warrant for bikeway hours change

Will likely not be taken up in June, as mentioned above

12. Interactive map

Linking to town website has not happened yet, Adam Kurowski (Director of GIS for the Town) wants to make sure map is integrated with Town systems (PeopleGIS). Low on priority for now vs. pandemic response.

13. ABAC strategic planning retreat, part 2

Meeting held March 7th. Themes include:

- From a working group to coordinate with DPW
- Coordinate with other towns
 - Contacts initiated with Belmont
 - Review MIT study data for insights
- Prioritizing problems
- Traffic counts - expanding
- Flyer to promote, encourage community involvement
- Target turbulent intersections
- ABAC history document (Jack to draft)
- Signage

A lot to take on at once, need plan for first, second, etc. things to tackle.

E.g., start with signage? Make progress during quiet time to prepare for when things start up again.

Overdue for Tri-town meeting. Hold virtually? Christopher will follow up with Lexington, Bedford to explore.

"What do we do" for signs working group in coordination with other communities may be helpful as a first step, so our plan is informed by challenges they faced/solutions they found.

Daniel: Roadway signs are pretty regulated, need to stick on standards, work on messages, where signs are needed.

Working group volunteers: Rod, David, Christopher, Jack. Will email to coordinate (virtual) meeting.

14. Annual social, touch-a-bike program, tour of Arlington

Rebook for fall?

Wait to understand "all clear," evolving guidance before trying to set dates for these.

15. Other business

Adam: nothing of note from Facebook

Daniel: continuing to work on bikeshare despite conditions, communities are working, dealing with legal issues from original 2016 RFP. Talking with Motivate/Lyft, coordinating with other communities - lots of contract negotiation.

Not clear how to get public input for station siting. Need mutual agreement between Town/Lyft - Lyft has some distance requirements.

May not make sense to launch under stay-at-home advisory, so maybe rollout in summer.

Clarified that bikes are same as Blue Bikes in Cambridge. E-bikes not in current scope, maybe future.

Peggy from Lexington inquired about updating bikeway map, Scott supplied updated image. Christopher will follow up.

Daniel will send link to video file to Doug M.

(Adjourned)